

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Summary January 26, 2005

Solid Waste Regulations and Guidance Implementation

John Fischer reviewed a schedule outlining the outreach, training, and other steps that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is taking to implement revised solid waste regulations and guidance. This schedule covers steps that have already taken place, as well as additional meetings, trainings and other activities planned for later this winter or spring. This schedule is posted along with these meeting notes. Please contact John Fischer at john.fischer@state.ma.us for questions or more information.

Revised Department Approved Recycling Program Criteria

John Crisley presented a summary of new Department Approved Recycling Program (DARP) criteria for cities and towns and answered questions regarding the new criteria. These criteria will take effect on July 1, 2006. Please refer to the presentation posted with these meeting notes for more information on the new criteria as well as background information on DARP. MassDEP has distributed these criteria and application forms to municipal officials and will contact municipalities that apply for DARP to confirm their status. MassDEP also will provide a list of municipalities with DARP status to solid waste facilities once the new DARP criteria take effect. For questions or more information on DARP, please contact John Crisley at john.crisley@state.ma.us.

Several comments and questions were discussed at the meeting:

- Solid waste facilities must send letters to DARP communities if waste ban items are observed in their loads through ongoing monitoring. Some communities with DARP status are confused by these letters and believe they should not be receiving them since they have DARP status. MassDEP should continue to clarify to municipalities that DARP does not exempt them ongoing monitoring or from inspections for zero tolerance items such as cathode ray tubes, tires, and auto batteries. Facilities may also choose to inspect DARP loads independent of the waste ban requirements.
- Some municipalities may have trouble meeting the new DARP criteria for collecting cardboard by July 1, 2006 since their existing hauler contract does not include cardboard. Any municipality in this situation should contact John Crisley, who is working with municipalities on ways to meet the cardboard criteria until contracts are updated.
- One participant argued that the DARP program is outmoded and argued that towns should not be exempt from waste ban inspections if the Solid Waste Master Plan's goal is to increase recycling. MassDEP responded that DARP is a voluntary program but that, in conjunction with other programs, it provides incentive for some municipalities to improve their recycling and composting programs.

Draft 2004 Recycling and Solid Waste Data

John Fischer presented a summary of draft 2004 solid waste and waste reduction data, which also is posted with these meeting notes. MassDEP met with its Data Subcommittee to review an earlier draft of this data in December 2005. This data will be included in the final Solid Waste Master Plan Revision, which MassDEP expects to publish in early March 2006. Because this data is still in draft form, MassDEP is accepting comments and questions on the data until Friday, February 10. Please contact John Fischer at john.fischer@state.ma.us with any comments or questions on the data. Solid waste and waste reduction data for 2005 is expected to be available in early 2007.

Summary of Solid Waste Regulations and Guidance Training

Paul Emond presented a summary of a training that MassDEP has developed on the revised solid waste regulations (310 CMR 19.000) and accompanying waste ban guidance. Separate training on Beneficial Use Determinations (BUDs) will be scheduled for this spring once MassDEP has finalized the BUD guidance. These training materials are available on the MassDEP web site at www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/laws/regulati.htm, along with the revised regulations, the waste ban guidance document, and a summary of changes made to the regulations. MassDEP also will be preparing a question and answer document specifically on the C&D waste ban, which is expected to be posted on this web site within the next several weeks.

Several points of clarification came up during the meeting:

- Although all solid waste facilities are required to submit some type of a waste ban plan modification (please refer to the waste ban guidance document posted on the MassDEP web site for details), municipal facilities are exempt from any applicable permit fees.
- For asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal, and wood, small transfer stations that only accept loads of less than five cubic yards may aggregate loads containing these materials and send them for disposal without violating the waste bans.
- In response to continued comments received from municipal officials, MassDEP will provide clarification in the C&D waste ban question and answer document stating that the wood waste ban will not apply to materials like furniture collected in bulky waste collections.
- Several participants expressed concern with markets for treated wood in particular and whether there would be adequate outlets for treated wood. MassDEP responded that wood can still be used for landfill dependent uses such as daily cover and grading and shaping and that MassDEP is working with C&D processors and other stakeholders to resolve problems that have come up with these uses. And, some categories of wood can be sent for use as fuel. A suggestion was made that it would be helpful if MassDEP could project inactive landfill closure capacity to take C&D fines and residuals.

Meeting Handouts and Presentations

- Meeting Agenda
- Outreach and Training Schedule for Revised Solid Waste Regulations and Guidance and Waste Ban Hauler/Generator Enforcement
- Overview of the FY 2007-2008 DEP Approved Recycling Program, Powerpoint presentation

- DRAFT 2004 Massachusetts Solid Waste and Waste Reduction Data, Solid Waste Advisory Committee – January 26, 2006
- Solid Waste Regulation Revisions (310 CMR 19.000) Information Session Handouts
- 310 CMR 19.017 Waste Ban Amendments Regulation Training, Powerpoint presentation

Next SWAC Meeting

The next SWAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 23, 2006, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA.